



Commodity Specification

CHICKEN PARTS

MAY 2002



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I. GENERAL

Chicken parts produced under this Specification will be packaged and packed in one or more of the following forms as specified in the contract:

Breast and Leg Quarters (221140) - Frozen chicken breast quarters and leg quarters. Breast quarters and leg quarters must be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets. The commodity must be packed in a minimum of four plastic-film bags and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in each fiberboard shipping container, with 1,000 containers per purchase unit totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Cut-up (221240) - Frozen cut-up chickens, 8 pieces, without necks and giblets. Cut-up chickens must be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets. The commodity must be packed in a minimum of four plastic-film bags and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in each fiberboard shipping container, with 1,000 containers per purchase unit totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

IF Cut-up (205140) - Individually frozen U.S. Grade A parts, prepared from cut-up chickens, 8 pieces, without necks and giblets. Cut-up chickens must be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets. The commodity must be individually frozen, packaged in a minimum of four plastic-film bags, and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in each fiberboard shipping container, with 1,000 containers per purchase unit totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Drumsticks (221940) - Frozen chicken drumsticks. Drumsticks must weigh a minimum of 4.15 ounces (117.65 g) each, or be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh a minimum 3.70 pounds (1.68 kg) per whole carcass, without necks and giblets. The commodity must be packaged in a minimum of four plastic-film bags, and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in each fiberboard shipping container, with 1,000 containers per purchase unit totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Leg Quarters (222640) - Frozen chicken leg quarters. Leg quarters must weigh between 9 and 13 ounces (255.14 and 368.54 g) each or be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.7 kg) per whole carcass, weighed without necks and giblets. The commodity must be packaged in a minimum of four plastic-film bags, and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in each fiberboard shipping container, with 1,000 shipping containers per purchase unit totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Thighs (222840) - Frozen chicken thighs with back portion. Thighs must weigh between 4.80 and 9.30 ounces (136.08 and 263.66 g) each, or be produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens which weigh 2.50 to 5 pounds (1.13 to 2.27 kg) per whole carcass, without necks and giblets. The commodity must be packaged in a minimum of four plastic-film bags and packed 40 pounds (18.14 kg) net weight in

each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

II. COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

A. Basic Requirements

1. Date Processed. Ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chicken breast and leg quarters, cut-up chickens, individually frozen (IF) cut-up chickens, drumsticks, leg quarters, and chicken thighs with back portion (commodity) must not be processed and packaged more than

30 calendar days prior to the date of the contract.

2. Origin of Chickens. The commodity must be produced and processed from chickens which were produced, raised, and processed in the United States, its territories or possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. If the contractor processes or handles chicken products originating from sources other than the United States, its territories or possessions, Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the contractor must have an acceptable identification and segregation plan for those chicken products to ensure they are not used in the commodities produced under this Specification. This plan must be made available to a representative of the Grading Branch, Poultry Programs, AMS, USDA (grader), and the Contracting Officer or agent thereof upon request. The contractor must ensure that both the contractor and subcontractor(s) maintain records such as invoices, or production and inventory records evidencing product origin, and make such records available for review by the USDA grader or other Government official(s) in accordance with Article 76 of USDA-1.

3. Inspection. Processing operations must comply with Poultry Products Inspection Regulations (9 C.F.R. Part 381) and be under the supervision of a representative of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) (inspector). Inspection for contract and Specification compliance will be in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Poultry Products and Rabbit Products (7 C.F.R. Part 70) and the U.S. Classes, Standards, and Grades for Poultry (AMS 70.200 *et seq.*) under the supervision of a USDA grader. The USDA grader will be responsible for certification of compliance with the requirements of this Specification for chicken breast and leg quarters, cut-up chickens, drumsticks, leg quarters, and thighs with back portion; packaging and packing; freezing; labeling and marking; net weight; and checkloading.

4. FSIS Requirements. **The commodity must be produced and processed in an FSIS Federally inspected establishment, be accurately marked and/or labeled, and meet all FSIS regulatory requirements, including all microbiological testing requirements, currently in place.**

5. Product Temperature. Temperature of the commodity, unless otherwise specified, must comply with FSIS regulations (9 C.F.R. § 381.66) throughout all operations including transportation between plants.

6. USDA Sampling Option. USDA may select additional commodity for further inspection or may draw samples for laboratory analyses.

7. Chickens From Other Plants. Chilled chicken or chicken parts may be transferred or obtained from other processing plants, provided they have been processed, handled, and identified in accordance with and in compliance with this Specification as evidenced by USDA certification.

a. Type, class; U.S. grade, when applicable; date slaughtered; and USDA-assigned plant number must be shown on each shipping container.

b. The chilled chicken and chicken products must be at an internal product temperature not higher than 40 EF (4.4 EC) and not lower than 26 EF (-3.3 EC) when shipped from the origin plant and when received at the destination plant.

B. Commodities

1. Commodities - Summary Table.

	a. BREAST and LEG QUARTERS	b. CUT-UP	c. IF CUT-UP	d. DRUMSTICKS	e. LEG QUARTERS	f. THIGHS
Type:	Frozen	Frozen	Frozen	Frozen	Frozen	Frozen
Class:	Broiler/Fryer	Broiler/Fryer	Broiler/Fryer	Broiler/Fryer	Broiler /Fryer	Broiler /Fryer
Style:	Ready-to-Cook, Breast Quarters and Leg Quarters	Ready-to-Cook, Cut-up, 8-piece cut	Ready-to-Cook, Cut-up, 8-piece cut	Ready-to-Cook, Drumsticks	Ready-to-Cook, Leg Quarters	Ready-to-Cook, Thighs with back portion
Necks and Giblets:	Without necks and giblets	Without necks and giblets	Without necks and giblets	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weight Range:	From ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets	From ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets	From ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets	Must weigh a minimum of 4.15 ounces (117.65 g) each, or be from ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh a minimum 3.70 pounds (1.68 kg) without necks and giblets	Must weigh between 9 and 13 ounces (255.14 and 368.54 g) each or be produced from ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without necks and giblets	Must weigh between 4.80 and 9.30 ounces (136.08 and 263.66 g) each, or be produced from ready-to-cook, whole, which weigh 2.50 to 5 pounds (1.13 to 2.27 kg) without necks and giblets
U.S. Grade:	U.S. Grade A parts	U.S. Grade A parts	U.S. Grade A parts	U.S. Grade A for all factors, except U.S. Grade B quality for exposed flesh	U.S. Grade B or better	U.S. Grade A for all factors, except U.S. Grade B quality for exposed flesh

2. Class. Broiler/fryers must conform to the definition for the class in AMS § 70.201.

3. Styles. Individual parts of chickens must conform to the definitions and standards in AMS § 70.210.

II.B.3.

a. Clips, tags, or bands must not be attached to the parts.

b. For breast quarters and eight-piece cut-up chicken commodities, the neck must be separated from its junction with the body of the carcass. Separation of all other parts must be accomplished at the joints or separation points described in AMS § 70.210. All cuts must be in a neat manner without mutilation of adjacent muscle and/or bone and without producing bone splinters. These cuts may be made by mechanical means.

c. Cut-up, eight-piece cut commodities. Whole chickens must be cut into eight pieces--two wings, two drumsticks, two breast quarters without wings (two breast halves with back portions), and two thighs with back portions.

4. U.S. Grade. Grading must be in accordance with 7 C.F.R. Part 70 and AMS 70.200 *et seq.* Grading must be under the supervision of a USDA grader using Poultry Programs' Sample Plan Level 1 (SPL-1) for Grade A parts, and Sample Plan Level 2 (SPL-2) for Grade B parts.

5. Carcass Weight. For the production of breast and leg quarter and cut-up commodities, 10 carcasses will be randomly drawn, weighed for individual weight, and must comply with the following:

a. Breast and leg quarters and cut-up commodities. Each carcass in the sample must weigh between 2.50 and 3.75 pounds (1.13 and 1.70 kg) each, per ready-to-cook whole carcass, without necks and giblets.

b. Drumsticks, thighs, and leg quarters. Drumstick, thigh, and leg quarter commodities must comply with the requirements in II.B.7.

c. Weight determination. Compliance with individual weight requirements will be made prior to cutting into the individual parts. The frequency of sampling will be according to Poultry Programs' SPL-2. If any sample does not comply with the weight requirements, the product the sample represents will be rejected.

6. Individual Weights. At the option of the contractor, the drumsticks, leg quarters, and thighs with back portion may be produced or must weigh as follows:

a. Leg quarters. Leg quarters may be produced from chickens which weigh 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg), without necks and giblets, or the leg quarters may be sampled and weighed for individual weight.

(1) If the individual weight option is selected, a sample of 10 leg quarters will be randomly selected before packaging.

II.B.6.

(2) Each leg quarter in a sample must weigh between 9 and 13 ounces (255.14 and 368.54 g).

b. Drumsticks. Drumsticks may be produced from chickens which weigh a minimum of 3.70 pounds (1.68 kg), or the drumsticks may be sampled and weighed for individual weight.

(1) If the individual weight option is selected, a sample of 10 drumsticks will be randomly drawn before packaging.

(2) Each drumstick in a sample must weigh not less than 4.15 ounces (117.65 grams).

c. Thighs. Thighs with back portion may be produced from chickens which weigh 2.50 to 5 pounds (1.13 to 2.27 kg), without necks and giblets, or the thighs may be sampled and weighed for individual weight.

(1) If the individual weight option is selected, a sample of 10 thighs will be randomly drawn before packaging.

(2) Each thigh in a sample must weigh between 4.80 and 9.30 ounces (136.08 and 263.66 g).

d. Compliance with individual carcass weight requirements will be made prior to cutting into the individual parts and compliance with individual part weight requirements will be made prior to packaging. The frequency of sampling will be according to Poultry Programs' SPL-2. If any sample does not comply with the weight requirements, the product the sample represents will be rejected.

7. Chilling.

a. Requirements. The commodity must be chilled in accordance with FSIS regulations (9 C.F.R. § 381.66). The chilled commodity must be processed, packaged and packed, and placed in a freezer within 7 calendar days after the day the chickens are slaughtered.

b. All commodities, except IF cut-up. Within the 7-day timeframe, the commodity must be placed in a freezer within 48 hours of packaging and packing. If the chilled commodity is not placed in a freezer immediately after packaging or packing, the commodity must be held at a room temperature not higher than 36 EF (2.2 EC) and not lower than 26 EF (-3.3 EC).

II.B.

8. Organoleptic Requirements. The chilled commodity will be examined on a continuous basis for the following organoleptic requirements: Chilled commodity must be free of rancidity; free of fruity, sulfide-like, cardboardy, tallowy, oily, oxidized, metallic, chlorine, or other foreign or off-odors; free of foreign materials (e.g., glass, paper, rubber, metal, etc.); must show no evidence of mishandling or deterioration; and must have a bright color with no evidence of dehydration or freezing and thawing. Any chicken or chicken parts sample that does not comply with the organoleptic requirements will be rejected for use under this Specification.

9. Tare For Ice Glazed Parts. When ice glazing methods are used for the IF cut-up chicken, the USDA grader will randomly weigh 10 parts according to established Poultry Program procedures for determining tare weight for ice glazed products. Both unglazed and glazed parts will be weighed to determine the tare weight.

10. Individual Freezing. The chilled parts for IF cut-up commodity must be individually frozen in an in-line freezing system so the individual parts do not stick together after they are packaged and packed in shipping containers. NOTE: Ice glazing methods are permitted. The determination of commodity for 72-hour freezing verification will be made as the commodity exits the in-line freezing system as follows:

a. Individually frozen commodity exiting an in-line freezing system with internal product temperatures higher than 0 °F (-17.8 °C) must be packaged and placed in a freezer. The internal product temperature must be lowered to 0 °F (-17.8 °C) or lower within 72 hours from the time the commodity enters the freezer.

b. Individually frozen commodity exiting an in-line freezing system with internal product temperatures 0 °F (-17.8 °C) or lower is in compliance with the 72-hour freezing requirement (in II.B.10.a. above).

c. In all cases, the commodity must be placed in a freezer immediately after packaging.

C. Packaging and Packing

1. Materials. All packaging and packing materials must: (a) comply with the requirements of this Specification, (b) be clean and in new condition, and (c) not impart objectionable odors or flavors to the commodity.

a. Plastic-film bags.

(1) Plastic-film bags must be safe (cannot adulterate product or be injurious to health) for use in contact with food products. The safety of food contact packaging materials will be in accordance with 9 C.F.R. § 381.66.

(2) Plastic-film bags for packaging frozen chicken parts must be a low-density polyethylene film bag with a wall thickness of not less than 2 mil (0.002 inch). Any seams must provide the same protective qualities as the body of the bag. Plastic-film bags must have: (a) low-temperature flexibility (not brittle) and durability to resist stress-cracking caused by the temperatures of freezing and frozen storage, and (b) the impact strength, tensile strength, and tear resistance to protect the commodity from dehydration, freezer burn, or quality deterioration during the conditions of use.

b. Shipping containers.

(1) Requirements. Shipping containers must: (a) be a fiberboard container; (b) be of such size to pack the commodity without slack filling or bulging; (c) protect the commodity from contamination and against loss and damage; (d) withstand the variations in humidity and temperature during the conditions of use; and (e) have the combined facings weight, and the compression strength (edge crush value) to withstand the stresses of handling, shipping, stacking, and storage.

(2) Container bottom. Flaps on the bottom of a shipping container must be securely fastened so the bottom remains securely fastened when the top of the container is opened.

(3) Final closure. Final closure of fiberboard shipping containers must be secure and made with commercially acceptable filament-reinforced tape, plastic-film packaging tape, non-metallic strapping, adhesive, or other similar types of materials that are applicable for cold temperature storage conditions and that provide for safe handling of the commodity. Steel or wire straps must not be used for final closure. Staples must not be used for final closure of shipping containers. Adhesive or staples cannot be used to fasten the top portion of telescope-style containers to the bottom portion. However, staples may be used to manufacture and to assemble the fiberboard shipping containers, provided the staples are fastened into the container and tightly clenched to eliminate sharp edges prior to packing the commodity into the shipping containers.

2. Packaging and Packing Requirements.

a. Chicken parts must be packaged: (1) in a minimum of four bags with approximately equal amounts in each bag; (2) in natural proportions, as applicable; and (3) packed to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) per shipping container.

b. Plastic-film bags of chicken parts must be evenly distributed to facilitate separation without thawing.

(1) Closure of bags must be by: (a) tying, (b) interlocking, (c) folding and taping or rolling and taping, or (d) sealing in a manner that will prevent leaking and protect the commodity from dehydration or freezer burn.

II.C.2.

(2) Metal wire ties, paper-coated wire ties, or staples must not be used for sealing plastic-film bags. Plastic-coated wire ties may be used, provided the wire and plastic are bonded so that under the conditions of use, the wire and plastic do not separate, the wire is not exposed, and the plastic does not crack or break. Further, the ties must be constructed to preclude damage to the packaging material and be of sufficient size and contrasting color to make them easily seen.

3. Packing Tolerances for Breast and Leg Quarters and Cut-up Commodities. Chicken parts in any individual shipping container need not come from the same whole chicken. The number and kind of parts or pieces in each shipping container must be proportional both in number and kind to those found in a whole chicken.

a. Tolerances for individual containers. One shipping container will be drawn and examined each sampling interval for compliance with the following packing tolerance criteria:

(1) Tolerance for breast and leg quarters. In a shipping container, the difference between the number of breast quarters and leg quarters must not be more than two.

(2) Tolerance for cut-up chicken commodities.

(a) Thigh pieces, drumsticks, and breast pieces. In a shipping container, the difference between the part having the least pieces and the part having the most pieces must not be more than four.

(b) Wings. Other chicken parts in approximately natural proportions may be substituted for wings. The wings must not exceed the number of pieces of the part (breast, thigh, or drumstick) in the shipping container having the greatest number of pieces. For example, if a shipping container of eight-piece, cut-up chicken contains 42 breast pieces, 38 thigh pieces, and 39 drumsticks, wings must not exceed 42 pieces.

(c) Example: A shipping container has 27 breast pieces, 31 thigh pieces, 30 drumsticks, and 32 wings. In this example, the thigh pieces, drumsticks, and breast pieces are within the permitted range of 4, but since the wings exceed the number of pieces of the other part with the greatest number of pieces in the shipping container (32 wings exceed 31 thigh pieces), the commodity does not meet tolerance requirements.

b. Reject criteria. If any sample (a shipping container of parts) does not meet the packing tolerance requirements, the shipping containers of parts the sample represents will be rejected.

D. Freezing

Chilled packaged or packed commodity must be frozen in accordance with FSIS regulations (internal product temperature lowered to 0 EF (-17.8 EC) or lower within 72 hours from the time of entering the freezer). When packaged or packed commodity is held at a room temperature below 26 EF (-3.3 EC), the commodity will be considered to be in a freezer and subject to the 72-hour freezing requirement which begins at the end of the shift the commodity enters the 26 EF (-3.3 EC) or lower facility.

III. LABELING

USDA labeling (III.A.-D. and III.F.-G.) or commercial labeling (III.E., F., and G.) must be used. When USDA or commercial labeling is selected, both the packages and shipping containers within a purchase unit must be labeled in that format. **THE CONTRACTOR MUST USE THE SAME LABEL FORMAT (EITHER USDA OR COMMERCIAL) WITHIN A PURCHASE UNIT.**

A. USDA Labeling Requirements

When USDA Labeling is used, any deviation from the USDA labeling requirements in this Specification must be approved by the Contracting Officer, in writing, prior to start of production.

1. Labeling Provisions. Labeling and marking of the product must be in accordance with this Specification. The name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer must appear on each shipping container.

2. Printing Requirements. Labeling and marking information must be water-fast, nonsmearing, of a contrasting color, clear, and readable.

B. USDA Labeled Packages

No labeling information is required on the packaging materials.

C. USDA Labeled Shipping Containers

1. Recycle Symbol and Statement. The contractor shall place somewhere on the surface of each recyclable shipping container the recycle symbol shown in EXHIBIT 1. The statement "PLEASE RECYCLE" is to be placed under the symbol. The recycle symbol and statement must be legibly printed in permanent ink.

III.C.

2. Labeling and Marking Information.

a. Requirements. Labeling and marking information must be: (1) preprinted, stamped, stenciled on shipping containers; or (2) printed on a pressure-sensitive label and applied to shipping containers. This information, in essentially the same layout, is provided in EXHIBITS 2 - 8.

b. “END” and “SIDE” designations. For the purpose of labeling and marking, the “end” and “side” panels may relate to the shortest and longest dimensions of the shipping container at the discretion of the contractor/processor. However, the panels must alternate between “end” panel and “side” panel designation with the two side panels and two end panels being located on opposite panels of the shipping container.

3. TOP PANEL - Labeling and Marking. The following information is required (as applicable) on the top panel of each shipping container:

a. Storing instructions. The following instructions must be printed on the top panel of the shipping container:

PERISHABLE--KEEP FROZEN
KEEP AT ZERO DEGREE F (-17.8 EC) OR BELOW

b. USDA symbol and manufacturer identification. The following must be printed on the “top panel” or the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container:

(1) The USDA symbol, copy on back of Specification, is to be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height.

(2) The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number.

4. ONE END Panel - Labeling and Marking. The following information is required (as applicable) on one end of each shipping container:

a. Type, name, and legend.

(1) For breast quarters and leg quarters, the following is required:

FROZEN BROILER/FRYER CHICKEN
BREAST QUARTERS AND LEG QUARTERS
Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

- (2) For cut-up the following is required:

FROZEN CUT-UP BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS

Without Necks and Giblets

Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.

Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

- (3) For IF cut-up the following is required:

INDIVIDUALLY FROZEN CUT-UP BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS

Without Necks and Giblets

Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.

Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

- (4) For drumsticks the following is required:

FROZEN BROILER/FRYER CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS

Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.

Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

- (5) For leg quarters the following is required:

FROZEN BROILER/FRYER CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS

Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.

Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

- (6) For thighs the following is required:

FROZEN BROILER/FRYER CHICKEN THIGHS WITH BACK PORTION

Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.

Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.

b. USDA grade. The USDA grademark, for breast and leg quarters and cut-up commodities must be shown on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container.

c. Inspection mark and plant number. The USDA inspection mark and USDA-assigned plant number must be printed on the "one end" designated panel of each shipping container.

III.C.4.

d. Safe handling instructions. FSIS Safe Handling Instructions must be preprinted or applied as a separate pressure-sensitive label on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container. The label must be in accordance with FSIS regulations and not cover the labeling information required within this Specification.

e. Storing instructions. The following storing instructions must be printed on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container:

KEEP FROZEN

f. Net weight. The following net weight statement must be printed on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container:

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

g. Nutritional labeling. A nutritional label, indicating the nutrient content of the commodity, is required on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container. This nutritional facts information or “nutrition facts panel” must be in compliance with the FSIS nutritional labeling requirements.

(1) The contractor/processor must select one of the following methods of providing the nutrition facts panel:

(a) Preprinted on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container; or

(b) Printed on a pressure-sensitive label and applied to the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container. The pressure-sensitive label must not cover or conflict with the labeling requirements of this Specification.

(2) NOTE: The nutrition facts information and panel must be approved per FSIS regulations prior to shipment of the commodity. The method of providing and location of this information for each shipping container (preprinted or pressure-sensitive label) must be indicated on the FSIS label application.

h. Contract number and pack date. The following information must appear on the “one end” designated panel of each shipping container:

(1) Last five digits of the contract number as it appears in the acceptance wire.

(2) Date packed (month, day, and year).

i. Universal product bar code.

(1) A Universal Product Code (UPC), symbol and code, called Interleaved 2 of 5 (I 2/5), must appear on each shipping container. The complete code, including the check digit, must be printed in machine-readable and human-readable form. The start and stop indicators will be included in the bar codes. Printing, readability, and scanability of the bar code must be in accordance with UPC guidelines published by Uniform Code Council, Inc., 8163 Old Yankee Road, Suite J, Dayton, Ohio 45458.

(2) The contractor will use the code furnished by USDA. USDA has acquired a unique manufacturer's identification number for the commodity purchase programs and will use a unique item code number for each commodity purchased under this Specification. The contractors need not join Uniform Code Council, Inc.

(a) Breast and leg quarters. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of breast and leg quarters is: 1 07 15001 01511 9

(b) Cut-up chicken. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of cut-up chicken is: 1 07 15001 01515 7

(c) IF cut-up chicken. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of individually frozen cut-up chicken is: 1 07 15001 01505 8

(d) Drumsticks. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of drumsticks is: 1 07 15001 01508 9

(e) Leg quarters. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of leg quarters is: 1 07 15001 01509 6

(f) Thighs. The 14-digit UPC code for shipping containers of thighs with back portion is: 1 07 15001 01513 3

(3) The UPC code must be placed in the lower right-hand corner of the "one end" designated panel of each shipping container.

j. USDA symbol and manufacturer identification. The following must be printed on the "one end" or the "top panel" designated panel of each shipping container:

(1) The USDA symbol, copy on back of Specification, is to be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height.

(2) The manufacturer's name, address, and phone number.

III.C.

5. ONE SIDE Panel - Labeling and Marking. The following information must be printed on the side panel immediately to the right of the “one end” designated panel.

6. THE OTHER END Panel - Labeling and Marking. For each shipping container, the following information must appear on the end opposite of the panel designated “one end.”

7. THE OTHER SIDE Panel - Labeling and Marking. For each shipping container, the following information must appear on the side opposite the panel designated “one side.”

8. Inventory Control Label. The processor may use a pressure-sensitive label to place any additional information (including bar codes) for processor inventory control purposes. This label may be applied somewhere on the surface of the shipping container. The label must not cover or conflict with the labeling requirements of this Specification.

D. Use of Previously Printed USDA Labeling Materials

Carryover inventories of existing supplies of printed packing materials (USDA Labeling) from the Commodity Specifications for Chicken Parts dated April 1999 and Individually Frozen Cut-Up Chickens dated October 1999 may be used.

Shipping containers or labels with incorrect: (1) contract number, (2) plant number, (4) date packed, (5) nutrition facts information or panel, or (6) universal product code(s) must be corrected before they are used. The incorrect information must be blocked out and the correct information legibly printed, stenciled, or stamped in permanent ink. Incorrect USDA grade information on shipping containers and labels must be blocked out. Additionally, the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer must appear on each shipping container.

E. Commercial Labeling Requirements

Commercially labeled packages and shipping containers must be labeled in accordance with FSIS requirements. Labeling must be approved by FSIS prior to acceptance for use under this Specification.

1. Distributor Labels. Commercial labels must be the manufacturer’s own commercial label. Distributors’ labels will not be allowed.

2. Traceable Product.

a. The manufacturer must establish a product identification and record system that clearly links product by place and time of manufacture to specific USDA contracts and destinations. When the company uses the same commercial label for the product certified as

complying with this Specification and commercial product, the identification system must differentiate between USDA and non-USDA products. An alpha numeric code may be used for information that is in addition to FSIS labeling requirements.

b. The required product identification and record system, including codes, must be reviewed by USDA before production begins for the contract(s). The USDA grader will include the product identification code on the USDA Poultry Grading Certificate that will accompany the product to destination.

3. U.S. Grade. In addition to FSIS commercial labeling requirements, the USDA grademark for breast and leg quarters and cut-up commodities must be printed on shipping containers. If packages are commercially labeled, the USDA grademark must be printed on each package of breast and leg quarters and cut-up commodities.

F. Additional Labeling Issues. The following will not be accepted for use under this Specification:

- Commercial labels that do not have a manufacturer traceability system and code are not allowed.
- Commercial labeling traceability coding and systems that have not been reviewed by a representative of Poultry Programs, Grading Branch are not allowed.
- Distributor commercial labels are not allowed.
- Two or more different commercial labels are not allowed in the same purchase unit.
- Commercial labels and USDA labels are not allowed in the same purchase unit.

G. F.a.s. Vessel Deliveries

F.a.s. vessel deliveries that are not source loaded in a seavan are required to show the final destination's overseas address as provided in the Notice to Deliver. The address must be clearly printed on at least two sides of each pallet.

IV. FINAL EXAMINATION OF PACKAGED AND PACKED COMMODITY

A. Material and Net Weight Compliance

1. Verification of Materials and Defects.

a. Verification of packaging and packing materials. The contractor must verify compliance with packaging, packing, and marking material requirements by furnishing the USDA grader the following certification on company stationery signed by a person authorized to do so by the contractor:

IV.A.1.

“(I)(We) certify that the packaging, packing, and marking materials used for any commodity presented for acceptance under the terms of the Commodity Specification for Chicken Parts dated May 2002, comply or will comply with the terms of this Commodity Specification.

Name _____

Title _____”

One certification is adequate for all production under this Specification.

b. Packaging defects. Packages in a delivery unit will be examined for defects that affect protection, expose product, or permit dehydration or freezer burn, or quality deterioration during storage, such as tears, holes, or improperly sealed or closed packaging.

c. Packing defects. Shipping containers in a delivery unit will be examined for condition, labeling, and marking defects according to the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers.

d. Tolerance for defects. If samples of packaged commodity or shipping containers in a delivery unit have more defects than the maximum tolerance for the applicable Poultry Programs’ sample plan, the delivery unit will be rejected.

2. Net Weight.

a. A purchase unit or delivery unit will total 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg) net, or multiples thereof.

b. Each delivery unit, except as provided in IV.A.2.f. below, will be examined for compliance with the net weight requirements at time of checkloading.

c. The tare weight of all packing materials will be determined by weighing a representative sample of all packaging components such as plastic-film bags, clips, and fiberboard containers.

d. Twelve (12) shipping containers will be selected at random from a delivery unit to determine net weight. The total net weight of the 12 shipping containers must be equal to or greater than 480 pounds (217.72 kg).

(1) If the total net weight is less than 480 pounds (217.72 kg), but greater than or equal to 475.20 pounds (215.55 kg), the delivery unit with the following average net weight per container will be accepted at the corresponding discount:

(Average Test Net Weight Per Container)

	: But Not	: Contract
<u>Less Than</u>	: <u>Less Than</u>	: <u>Price Discount</u>
40.0 pounds (18.14 kg)	: 39.6 pounds (17.96 kg)	: 1.0%
39.6 pounds (17.96 kg)	: --	: Unacceptable

Payments will be made on the actual quantity delivered. All price adjustments will be based on a delivery unit.

(2) If the total net weight is less than 475.20 pounds (215.55 kg), the delivery unit will be rejected.

e. A rejected delivery unit may be reworked and reoffered one time only. However, if an individual shipping container in the sample of the reworked delivery unit has a net weight of less than 39.60 pounds (17.96 kg), the delivery unit will be rejected.

f. As an alternative to test weighing at time of checkloading, the contractor may request on-line verification of net weights. Upon receiving the request, a Federal-State supervisor, Grading Branch, Poultry Programs will determine that the facilities and procedures are in accordance with applicable Poultry Programs' instructions for this Specification.

B. Prerequisites for Loading and Shipping Frozen Commodity

1. Visual Inspection. Frozen chicken parts must be a uniform light and bright color. Moisture (ice) present in frozen commodity must not exceed occasional small areas of clear, pinkish- or reddish-colored ice. Frozen commodity showing any evidence of weepage beyond the tolerance; or defrosting, refreezing, or freezer deterioration will be rejected for use under this Specification.

2. Internal Product Temperature.

a. Requirements. Internal product temperature of frozen commodity must be 2 EF (-16.7 EC) or lower at time of loading. Delivery units with internal product temperatures exceeding 2 EF (-16.7 EC) and up to 5 EF (-15 EC) will be tentatively rejected. Tentatively rejected delivery units may be returned to the freezer and the temperature reduced to 2 EF (-16.7 EC) or lower and reoffered one time only. Delivery units exceeding 5 EF (-15 EC) or delivery units that have been tentatively rejected and exceed 2 EF (-16.7 EC) when reoffered will be rejected for use under this Specification.

b. Optional temperature verification. As an option to verifying internal product temperature at time of loading, the contractor may request an alternate method utilizing

product temperature sensing devices. If this option is selected, a Federal-State supervisor will determine that the facilities, equipment, procedures, and the contractors' current level of

IV.B.2.

freezing compliance are in accordance with the established guidelines outlined in the applicable Poultry Programs' instructions for this Specification.

C. Inspection and Checkloading

1. Requirements. Inspection for contract compliance will be made by a USDA representative, in accordance with 7 C.F.R. Part 70, FSIS regulations, and this Specification, at the site of processing, both during and after processing and packaging. A USDA representative may select samples for laboratory analyses or inspect the commodity at any point in transit and after delivery to point of destination. Inspection records must be complete and made available to USDA, as requested, to assure contract compliance.

2. Procedures. The inspection and checkloading required by Articles 54 and 55 of USDA-1 must be performed by a USDA grader. Procedures to be followed and a schedule of fees for these services may be obtained by contacting the nearest Grading Branch field office or the Chief of Grading Branch, Poultry Programs, AMS, USDA, Room 3938-S, STOP 0258, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0258, telephone (202) 720-3271. The quality, quantity, weight, packaging, packing, and checkloading of the commodity must be evidenced by certificates issued by the USDA grader. The contractor must not ship the commodity unless informed by the USDA grader that the designated commodity to be shipped meets contract specifications.

V. UNITIZATION

Each delivery unit of commodity must be unitized (palletized and stretchwrapped) and comply with the following:

A. Pallets

Pallets must be good quality, wood, 48 inches x 40 inches, nonreversible, flush stringer, and partial fourway entry. Each pallet of shipping containers must be stretchwrapped with plastic film in a manner that will secure each container and layer of containers on the pallet. Palletized product must be loaded in a way that will prevent shifting and damage to the containers of product.

B. Pallet Exchange

Contractors may arrange for pallet exchange with consignees; however, USDA is in no way responsible for such arrangements.

VI. SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY

Shipment and delivery must be made in accordance with this Specification, the applicable Announcement and Invitation, and Articles 56, 57, and 64 of USDA-1, as amended by the Announcement. In addition, the contractor must adhere to the following provisions:

A. Contract Compliance Stamp

Each shipping container must be identified with a USDA Contract Compliance stamp with the applicable certificate number. A USDA grader, or other authorized personnel under the supervision of the USDA grader, will stamp one end of each shipping container prior to shipment. If there is inadequate space available on either end of the shipping container, the stamp may be applied to a side of the container.

B. Grading Certificate

A copy of the original USDA Poultry Grading Certificate issued at time of checkloading must accompany each shipment.

1. Railcar or Piggyback. If shipment is by rail or piggyback, the certificate must be placed in the railcar or trailer for easy access to the USDA grader, warehouseman, or consignee, as applicable.

2. Trucks. If shipment by truck, the driver must, upon delivery, give the certificate to the USDA grader, warehouseman, or consignee, as applicable.

C. Loading and Sealing of Vehicles

Loading must be in accordance with good commercial practices and the sealing must be done at origin under the supervision of a USDA grader.

1. Railcar. Each railcar must be sealed. The contractors are responsible for arranging for railcar deliveries of more than one delivery unit so that each delivery unit contained in the same railcar can be completely separated and sealed.

2. Truck or Piggyback. Truck or piggyback shipments must be sealed at origin. A delivery unit shipped by truck or piggyback which includes split deliveries to multiple destinations will not require separation by sealing each drop.

D. Delivery Notification

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 56(c) of USDA-1, as amended by the applicable Announcement, the contractor must follow the instructions in the Notice to Deliver issued by the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) concerning delivery notification. Such notification and information of impending delivery are vital in proper execution of delivery. The contractor must notify the State distributing agency and the consignee of shipment per

VI.D.

instructions in the Notice to Deliver. For rail or piggyback shipments, notification shall be made on the day of shipment. For truck shipments, notification of the estimated arrival time should be made as far in advance of delivery as possible. In addition, for truck or piggyback shipments, the contractor must request and keep scheduled appointment(s). Unloading appointments for truck or piggyback shipments must be requested from the consignee contact party(ies) at least 24 hours in advance of delivery.

1. In-Plant Deliveries. When in-plant delivery is made, the contractor must notify the appropriate USDA resident grader and furnish applicable information.

2. Delivery In Storage. Delivery may be made in store provided the destination in the Notice to Deliver and the place the contractor has the commodity in storage are the same. Inspection and certification by a USDA grader are also required for transfers in store.

3. Early Delivery. The contractor may deliver early upon approval of the KCCO. Approval may be obtained by telephoning (816) 926-6068. Approval is contingent on the recipient's concurrence to accept early delivery and upon a USDA grader being available to perform necessary checkloading and final acceptance duties.

E. Split Deliveries

The contractor is responsible to deliver the quantity stated on each Notice to Deliver to each destination. Contractors must provide to the USDA Grader, at time of shipment, the number of boxes and pounds for each destination.

At the option of the contractor, a purchase unit with two or more Notices to Deliver (split deliveries) for multiple destinations may be delivered on separate trucks provided each truck ships the total quantity stated on the Notice to Deliver. Any additional costs will accrue to the contractor's account.

VII. DESTINATION EXAMINATION

The cost of a destination examination, before or after delivery, by a USDA grader on acceptable product will be for the account of USDA. Costs for destination examination of rejected delivery units will be for the account of the contractor. The USDA origin grader will make arrangements for destination examinations prior to delivery.

A. Commodity Requirements

Before acceptance by consignee, the commodity may be examined by a USDA grader on a spot-check basis for temperature, condition, identity, and, when applicable, count. The commodity may be examined for conformance to contract provisions at any time required by the Contracting Officer.

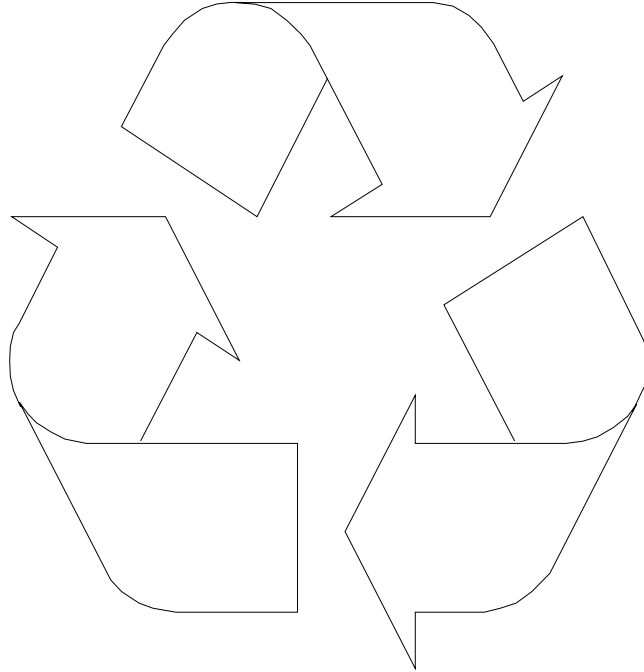
B. Temperature

The commodity must arrive at destination at an average internal product temperature not to exceed 10 °F (-12.2 °C), with no individual temperature exceeding 15 °F (-9.4 °C).
Commodity not meeting these requirements will be rejected for use under this Specification.

Howard M. Magwire
Deputy Administrator, Poultry Programs

Attachment

EXHIBIT 1
“Please Recycle” Symbol and Statement



**PLEASE
RECYCLE**

EXHIBIT 2
USDA Labeled Shipping Containers

Marking Information: Shipping containers may be marked substantially as shown below. Detailed USDA labeling information is provided in Exhibits 3 - 8. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The USDA symbol is to be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.

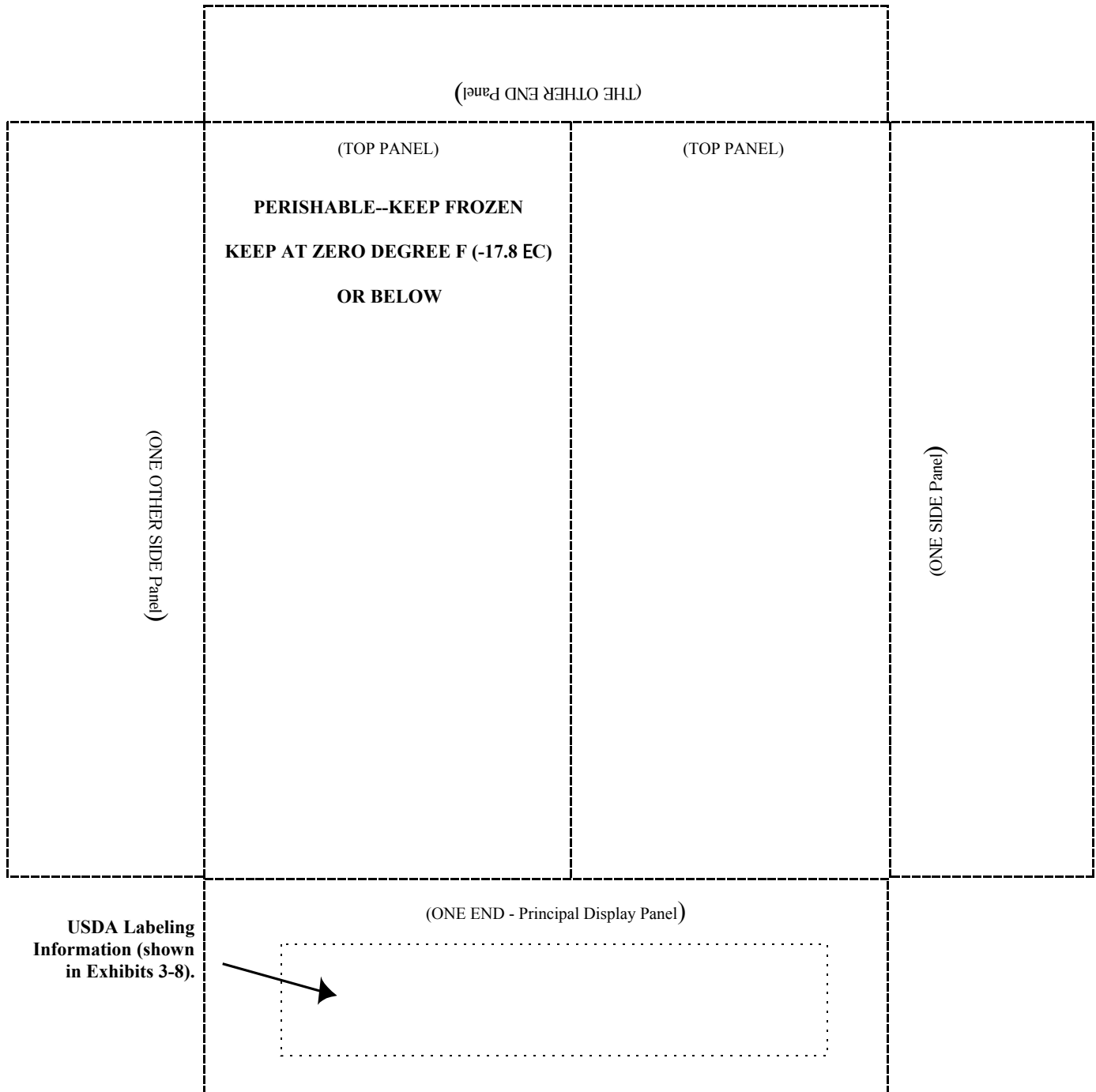


EXHIBIT 3
USDA Label Information for Chicken Breast Quarters and Leg Quarters

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The applicable UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01511 9), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**FROZEN BROILER/FRYER CHICKEN
BREAST QUARTERS AND LEG QUARTERS**

**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer’s
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

EXHIBIT 4
USDA Label Information for Cut-Up Chickens

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01515 7), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**FROZEN CUT-UP
BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS**

**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer's
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

EXHIBIT 5
USDA Label Information for Individually Frozen Cut-Up Chickens

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01505 8), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**INDIVIDUALLY FROZEN CUT-UP
BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS**

**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer’s
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

EXHIBIT 6
USDA Label Information for Chicken Drumsticks

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01508 9), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**FROZEN BROILER/FRYER
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS**



**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer’s
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

EXHIBIT 7
USDA Label Information for Chicken Leg Quarters

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure sensitive label and applied to containers. The UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01509 6), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**FROZEN BROILER/FRYER
CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS**



**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer’s
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

EXHIBIT 8
USDA Label Information for Chicken Thighs

Marking Information: USDA labeling information must be printed on the “ONE END” panel of each shipping container as provided in Exhibit 2. Markings must be preprinted, stamped, stenciled on containers, or printed on a separate pressure-sensitive label and applied to containers. The UPC 14-digit I 2/5 code (1 07 15001 01513 3), bar and code, must be shown in the lower right-hand corner of the “ONE END” designated panel. The USDA symbol must be a minimum of 2.25 inches (5.72 cm) in height and may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel. The manufacturer’s name, address, and phone number may be printed on the “TOP PANEL” or “ONE END” designated panel.



**FROZEN BROILER/FRYER
CHICKEN THIGHS
WITH BACK PORTION**



**Distributed by USDA in cooperation with State and local
or tribal governments for domestic food assistance programs.
Not To Be Sold Or Exchanged.**

**Manufacturer’s
Name, Address, and Phone**

**Nutrition Facts Panel
May Be Placed Here**

**Safe Handling Instructions
May Be Placed Here**

KEEP FROZEN

Net Weight 40 LBS. (18.14 KG)

**CONTRACT NO. _____
DATE PACKED Month, Day, and Year**

UPC Bar and Code

USDA SYMBOL

